

## **1. A Daring Touch Mark 5: 1-20**

Here, we find a man who was demon possessed. He lived in the tombs and no one could bind him, even with a chain. The demons living in the man were ordered by Jesus to leave him. The impure spirits went into a herd of about 2000 pigs which later drowned in a lake. This man -out of his mind, poor, wretched, and demonic- was healed. This news was reported in the nearby towns. The dying of the 2000 pigs was also reported. The people, instead of rejoicing, were now pleading with Jesus to leave their region. Jesus had caused a great financial loss and the gentiles were not happy. (Remember Jews do not have any contact with pigs - Lev 11:7, 8). Jesus, not only a Jew but also known as a Rabbi (teacher), had taken a great risk to save one man. When we help a person while studying the bible, we must understand that it is not only a dare, but a risk. Their parents might not be happy. Their boss may not be happy. It may seem like everyone is blaming you, because you invited the person to church. We should be men and women ready to take the blame because we understand that we are not fighting human beings, but the devil. On the other hand, the demon possessed man was grateful for the healing and he went to the ten cities (Decapolis) stating how much Jesus had done for him. If we have understood the risk God and the brothers or sisters have taken, then it will be seen in the way we talk to our friends or non- Christians. No one has to push us to evangelize. Since we are grateful, we will evangelize without being told. Jesus took a dare to touch you, a brother or sister took a dare to touch you, and we should now take a dare to touch the lost.

## **2. An Astonishing Touch Mark 5: 21-24, 35-43**

Once again, Jesus was met by a desperate father, who was a Synagogue leader named Jairus. Jairus' daughter was dying and so he was pleading with Jesus to come and put his hands on her, so that she could be healed. While Jesus was en route to his house, he had to pay attention to another Bleeding woman (This is our third point). Surely the woman had delayed Jesus when a further news came that Jairus' daughter was dead. Jesus, Jairus and Peter, James and John (The three closest to Jesus) made their way to Jairus' home. There was commotion, crying and wailing, but we see Jesus and the team not distracted. Of course, Jesus raised up the dead girl back to life. I want now to pay attention to the girl's father. Initially, Jairus went to Jesus begging and pleading. When Jesus consented, I am sure Jairus must have been very happy. While making their way back to the house there was a distraction. Later Jairus hears the news that his daughter is dead. We don't see Jairus complaining or having bad attitude towards the bleeding woman, nor do I think there was any bitterness or disbelief. Rather, Jairus took to heart when Jesus said 'Just believe'. I am sure Jairus believed. And because of that, his daughter came back to life. Many times we ask Jesus for something and the situation gets worse. We tend to get bad attitudes, wallow in self-pity, complain, become bitter, shout at people, curse God, stop praying and stop reading bible, stop coming to church and become angry. Surely, we can learn from the astonishing touch that Jairus exhibited by believing Jesus' words. Let's learn to astonish Jesus by our actions, which is nothing alien, but to simply believe and accept what Jesus says.

### **3. A Personal Touch Mark 5: 24-34**

Jesus was on his way to heal Jairus' daughter. There lived a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years. She had been to many doctors, spent all her money, and gotten worse. When she heard about Jesus, she touched his cloak from behind. Her faith was simply- if I just touch his clothes I will be healed. True to her thinking, her bleeding stopped and she was free from her suffering. There is a lesson here for us. Jesus had healed many without touching. Jesus had also touched many and healed. But the healing that we see here depended on the reasoning of the bleeding woman. It was according to her thought, if I touch his clothes I will be healed. This had never happened before, nor do we see it happening later (For example the soldiers gambled with Jesus' garment). What this woman thought was what she received. Many times Jesus wants us to be like the bleeding woman, to have our own faith and act upon it. Do not let your knowledge of God limit the power of God. God's power works best when our faith is beyond our knowledge!

Upon further reading, we see Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. On inquiring who touched his clothes, the woman came and fell at Jesus' feet. Jesus told her that she has been healed and freed from her suffering. This is similar to when we invite people. There will be many who will be scared like this woman. Maybe people have health issues and they don't know whom to talk to. Many may have family issues, boyfriend/girlfriend problems, suicidal thoughts, depression, hopelessness in life, harassed by friends and family members and all this for several years. Maybe they have been looking for a remedy and gone to temples, mosques, gurudwaras and churches. We need to understand that these people would not boldly come to accept or follow Jesus. In some ways, they only want to come to our Church on Sundays. As time goes by, they will definitely have the faith to touch Jesus in their own way. When they do we should be aware and then help them declare in the open that they have now made Jesus their Lord.

Sometimes, we can become like the disciples not knowing what is happening around Jesus. We may be walking, talking and touching Jesus and yet our touch might not be personal. Maybe we have gotten too comfortable with our lives. Or we are too healthy. Some of us feel that we simply do not have any need for God. Our quiet times dwindle and then we are the biggest losers in life. The very purpose of a disciple is to have a personal touch with God and more importantly, to be at peace that God immediately recognizes our personal touch.